

Remarks

I. Status and Nature of the Amendment

This application is a continuation of US Patent Application Serial No. 08/141,833, filed on August 28, 1998 (now pending), which application claims priority from Provisional Application No. 60/056,292 (filed September 3, 1997), Provisional Application No. 60/077,874 (filed March 13, 1998), and Provisional Application No. 60/090,834 (filed June 26, 1998). Claims 1-28 were pending at the time of the Examiner's action. Claims 9-12, 14-17, 25-28 have been withdrawn. Accordingly, claims 1-8, 13 and 18-24 are presently pending.

II. Response to Restriction Requirement

The Examiner has issued a requirement for restriction of the original claims, identifying four separate and distinct inventions:

Group	Claims	Subject Matter
I.	Claims 1-8, 13 and 18-24	Drawn to peptide compounds and compositions thereof, classified, for example, in class 530, subclass 300+;
II.	Claims 9 (in part) and 12	Drawn to treating HIV virus using a RANTES peptide inhibitor, classified, for example, in class 424, subclass 184.1 +;
III.	Claims 9 (in part) and 10-11	Drawn to treating an inflammatory disease state, classified, for example, in class 514, subclass 824+; and
IV.	Claims 14-17 and 25-28	Drawn to compounds and compositions comprising a peptide "organic chain" (e.g. polymer) conjugate, classified, for example, in class 525, subclass 54.1 +.

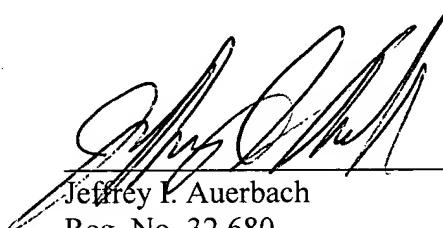
Applicants herewith elect to prosecute the invention of **Group I** (claims 1-8, 13 and 18-24).

The Examiner has also issued a request for an election of a single molecular species that could be used to facilitate the examination of the claims. Applicants herewith elect as Species A “R1-Rantes (2-68) or homologues: where R1 is defined in Claim 1” the species **n-nonanoyl RANTES (2-68)** (referred to in the specification as “NNY-RANTES 2-68”), corresponding to R¹-RANTES (2-68) where R¹ is CH₃-(CH₂)_n-X-, in which n is 7 and X is -C(O)-.

III. Concluding Remarks

Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for Examination, and earnestly solicit early notice of favorable action. The Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned with respect to any issues regarding this application.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jeffrey P. Auerbach
Reg. No. 32,680
Attorney for Assignee

Date: 7-May-2003
Liniak, Berenato & White, LLC
6550 Rock Spring Drive, Suite 240
Bethesda, MD 20817
Tel: (301) 896-0600 / Fax: (301) 896-0607